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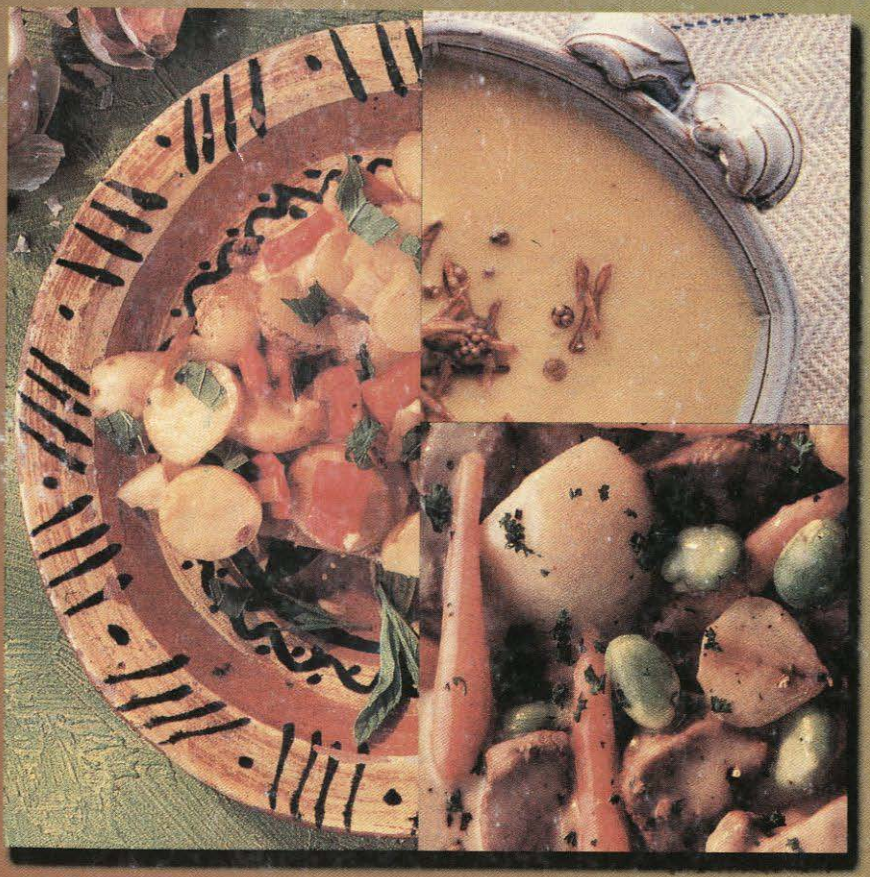
KISWAHILI-ENGLISH
OD AND DRINKS
DICTIONARY



Dr Kineene Wa Mutiso

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FIRST SWAHILI-ENGLISH DICTIONARY OF FOOD AND DRINKS

KINEENE WA MUTISO

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BOOKMAN CONSULTANTS LTD

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Haki zote za kunukuu maandishi kutoka Kamusi hii zimehifadhiwa. Hapana ruhusa ya kunukuu sehemu yo yote ya maandishi kutoka katika kitabu hiki bila idhini kutoka kwa wachapishaji na pia mwandishi.

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INTRODUCTION

The *First English-Kiswahili Dictionary of Food and Drinks* is the first dictionary of its kind in not only Kenya but also in other Kiswahili speaking countries.

It contains words on traditional Swahili foods and drinks with their English renderings, expository information, words related to food and drinks and foreign foods and drinks which have now become part of the Swahili culture.

These foods are cooked and eaten by not only the Waswahili but also by the non-Swahilis.

Words are arranged alphabetically for easy reference. In addition, there are synonymous Swahili equivalents for improving user's vocabulary. The Swahili words are in both bold and italics type.

There is no debate on the fact that food plays a major role in our lives. No man can be a patriot on an empty stomach and undoubtedly the desire for food has been and still is one of the main causes of great political events.

The importance of food and drinks dictionary cannot be overemphasised. The first headache of any traveller, in a foreign land and even in his own country where people eat different food, is the name of the food to eat.

I vividly remember my first shocking experience in January 1992, in a Rwandese hotel , when I was shown the menu. The first item

in the list, in both French and Kinyarwanda was *poisson* translated into Kinyarwanda as *Amafi* . At once I lost my appetite and it took sometime for me to be convinced by the kind hearted and understanding attendant that *poisson* had nothing to do with *poison* and *Amafi* was in no way related to *mavi* (human waste) in Kiswahili. It was from then that the idea of writing a dictionary on food and drinks came to my mind.

This dictionary will be of immense use to Kiswahili experts and learners, tourists and travellers, translators and lexicographers, literary pundits, nutritionists and medical practitioners, home scientists and housewives and those in the culinary arts.

It will facilitate the exchange of cultural concepts between the two languages, Kiswahili and English. It is also hoped that the dictionary will be a valuable reference book.

Kineene wa Mutiso (Ph.D)
Nairobi, September 2000

DEDICATION

Dedicated to Profs. Mohamed Hassan Abdulaziz Mugyabuso M. Mulokozi and Mohamed Bakari for their warm friendship and inspiration.

ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	=	adjective
ampl.	=	amplicative
adv.	=	adverb
cf.	=	confer, compare
cs.	=	causative
cv.	=	conversive
dir.	=	direct
dim.	=	diminutive
Eng.	=	English
Hind.	=	Hindi
inten.	=	intensive
plur.	=	plural
ps.	=	passive
prep.	=	prepositional
rp.	=	reciprocal
st.	=	stative
stc.	=	static
ten.	=	tenacious
usu.	=	usually
v.	=	verb
v.p	=	verb phrase
vt	=	verb transitive

Achali, n. Chutney, pickles, slices of mango mixed with chillies, vinegar or lime or lemon, juice and pepper (cf. *kachumbari*, also *achari*, *chatine*), *~ya birimbi* n. cucumber chutney, *~ya embe (maembe)*, n. mango pickle(s). A side dish which can be eaten with any type of rice, etc., *~ya matunda*, n. fruit chutney, *~ya nazi*, n. coconut pickle(s), *~ya ndimu* n. lime pickle(s); *~ya ndizi* n. *~ya papai*; n. pawpaw pickles; *~ya pilipili*, n. pepper pickle(s); *~ya siki*, n. onion pickle(s)

Achari, n. see under *achali*.

Adesi, n. see under *dengu*.

Aisikirimu, n. ice cream [Eng.], *~ya jamu*, n. jam ice cream; *~ya kahawa;* n. coffee ice cream, *~ya vanilla (lavani)*, n. vanilla ice cream; *~ya papai*, n. pawpaw ice cream.

Akari, n. intoxicating liquor, (cf. *ulevi*).

Akika, n. feast made dring the first hair cutting of a child, usually when it is eight days old

Ala, n. any sort of apparatus, utensil.

Alakati, n. *a la carte* ,(of restaurant meal) ordered as separate items from a menu, not at a fixed price for the complete meal

Alama, n. sign; *~mlingano*, n. notches

-alia, v. 1. dry fish in the sun or by smoking. 2. arrange fish in a small pot

Ambari, n. ambergris

Ambua, v. peel

-a moto, adj. hot, warm

-andaa, v. prepare, arrange esp. of preparing food, cakes. (cf. *andika*), *~chakula*, v.p. prepare food; meza n. set a table, lay a table for meal, *~-andalia*, v. prepare food for (with, in etc), *andika* v. prep. set in order, prepare food *-andikisha* v. cause a meal to be laid, cause to be set in order, etc. *-andiko* n. *ma-*, usu. in plur. preparation of serving meals